

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Community Involvement & Communication Plan  
(CICP)  
For



11665 Morgan County Road 1  
Wiggins, Colorado 80654

August 19, 2005

## INTRODUCTION

This document describes the Community Involvement & Communication Plan (CICP) for Magnum Feedyard, LLC.

The goals of this plan are as follows:

- a. Implement a successful communications strategy for the community interested in Magnum's operations related to the requirements of the Environmental Management System (EMS) permit.
- b. Maintain relationships with the public, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (the department) and other interested entities.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

In August of 2004, the department adopted regulations associated with the Environmental Management System (EMS) Permit Pilot Program. Specifically, the EMS Permit Pilot Project establishes the requirements necessary for the development of a regulatory system that allows an EMS to act as a single cross media permit for qualified regulated entities.

The goals associated with the EMS Permit Pilot Project include:

- a. Utilizing an EMS to deliver compliance equivalent performance through enforceable performance standards;
- b. Reliance upon an EMS with specific, department-approved performance improvement goals to raise environmental performance through continual environmental improvement;
- c. The use of an EMS to continue producing compliance and performance into the future;
- d. Continuation of the department's selective policy that offers rewards to good performers who have used or want to add an EMS to their environmental management approach;
- e. The appropriate allowance for stakeholder involvement in a participant's environmental footprint, compliance history, and community relations situation;
- f. The consideration of cross-media impacts when making environmental decisions; and
- g. Finding ways to have the regulated organizations' EMS efforts replace and/or augment some of governments environmental regulatory functions, including inspections through external third party audits, minor permit modifications through the EMS tracking system and reporting through the EMS data collection, problem identification, root cause analysis and systems modification processes.

Magnum became one of the facilities selected to participate in the EMS Permit Pilot Project in 2004. Magnum's participation assists the department with meeting the project goal of having five facilities across various sectors and trades within Colorado in the pilot effort.

## **COMPANY PROFILE**

Magnum Feedyard is a beef cattle feeding facility with a confinement capacity for 22,500 head of feeder cattle. The feedyard was originally constructed in 1943 by the Alkire family and operated with a 5,000 head maximum capacity. The feedyard was owned by Herb and Bud Alkire and operated at that capacity until 1994, when Steve Gabel purchased the feedyard and named the facility Magnum Feedyard. Since 1994, Magnum Feedyard has slowly rebuilt the original feedyard and expanded to the current 22,000 head capacity.

Magnum's philosophy focused on competitive performance and outstanding customer service, the honesty and integrity of our ownership and management team has allowed our feeding company to flourish to our current capacity of 22,500 head.

Although our employee team is young and aggressive, most have been with us from the start. We believe in a philosophy that "people do business with people". This is underscored throughout our customer base, vendor list, and employee roster.

## **SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION**

Magnum Feedyard is located in the sand hills of east central Colorado. Nestled in rolling hills, the yard is protected from inclement weather, and with over 300 days of sunshine and fewer than 14 inches of annual precipitation. The arid climate is perfect for cattle feeding. The feedyard operation occupies a total of 2,100 acres and is located approximately 5.5 miles southwest of Wiggins, Colorado in Morgan County. The physical address of the facility is 11665 Morgan County Road 1. The facility is located in portions of Sections 5 and 6, Township 2 North, Range 60 West and Section 31, Township 3 N, Range 60 West in Morgan County. The Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates of the facility's main entrance are a latitude of 40° 10' 11" North and a longitude of 104° 8' 56" East. The facility consists of grain storage bins, a shop, an office, three residences, a feedmill, two animal processing barns, confinement pens, center pivot sprinkler systems, water wells and improved roadways.

## **SURROUNDING PROPERTIES**

Located north of the feedyard is a small mobile home development along the north side of Morgan County Road M/2. North of those mobile homes is native sage and grasslands. Located east of the feedyard are native sage and grasslands with several mobile homes located at the intersection of Morgan County Roads 1 and M/2. Located south of the feedyard are native sage and grasslands with the abandoned West Nile Reservoir located one-half mile south of the property. Located west of the feedyard are native sage and grasslands along with irrigated farmland.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY**

Environmentally conscious, the staff at Magnum is dedicated to sound environmental and conservation practices. The employees and owners of Magnum demonstrate this commitment by conducting year-round pen maintenance assures maximum cattle performance, properly managing manure and pests and by implementing new and innovative practices to address environmental and land use issues and/or concerns.

As part of Magnum's environmental management system, there are training components and inspection/audit requirements that monitor program effectiveness. In addition, Magnum utilizes stringent material and service purchasing processes that require communication of problems and recommendations for resolving the problem with the owner or office manager for approval prior to purchase. This procedure has provided a mechanism for eliminating or significantly reducing materials and/or services that have unacceptable impacts on employee safety and health and/or on the environment.

As a result of Magnum's leadership and stewardship principles, Magnum was invited to become part of the Department of Public Health and Environment's EMS Permit Pilot Program. Magnum's participation in the project is helping to address regulatory requirements as well as helping to move the feedyard beyond environmental compliance.

## **PERMIT SUMMARY**

### **Water Discharge Permit:**

Description: This permit covers discharges from concentrated animal feeding operations into surface water resulting from a 25 year-24 hour storm event as allowed under the Federal Effluent Limitation Guidelines (ELGs). In general, the permit ensures that production areas are designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to contain all manure and process wastewater, runoff and direct precipitation from either a 25-Year, 24-Hour Storm or Chronic Storm, whichever is greater.

Regulatory Agency: EPA and the department

Renewal Frequency: Every 5 years

Requirements included in EMS Pilot: Yes

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE CICP**

This CICP summarizes Magnum's program for communicating with the community and other interested entities. This communication is intended to be a two-way communication process.

The objectives for Magnum's CICP are to:

- Ensure that the public understands that their input is important.
- Provide information on how to access information that keeps local residents and other interested parties informed of activities.
- Provide a mechanism for interested parties to submit questions, concerns, information needs
- Effectively serve interested parties information needs through various dissemination techniques as deemed appropriate.
- Create and maintain a climate of understanding and trust by providing information and opportunities for comments and discussion.

**Community Survey:**

On March 8-9, 2005, Meg Collins, Director of Colorado Livestock Association's Livestock Government Affairs Project, Phyllis Woodford, Manager of the department's Sustainability Program and Jeannine Natterman, public relations specialist with the department's Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division conducted surveys in the area surrounding the feedyard. The interviews included several individuals and business owners/operators that live and/or work in the nearby community of Wiggins and in the general vicinity of the feedyard, as well as county officials from Morgan County.

The purpose of the interviews was to find out how much the community knew about Magnum Feedyard and to learn the best way to communicate and get information to them as individuals and to the community. A summary of the results is provided below.

**Survey Results:**

Personal, one-on-one interviews were held with 11 individuals at either their place of employment or at their home. Of the group interviewed, six have lived or worked in the Wiggins area for more than 19 years. Two others recently moved to the area, but have known the owner/operator of Magnum Feedyard for over 30 years.

**Public Advisory Group:**

A Public Advisory Group, or PAG, will be established as required by the Environmental Management System Permit Pilot Program regulations. Through the PAG, interested parties will have the opportunity, as deemed appropriate by Magnum Feedyard and the department, to take an advisory role in the evaluation, analysis and discussion of the EMS Permit Pilot Program. Magnum Feedyard will consider recommendations from the PAG when determining how information will be distributed. Members of the PAG will be selected to provide a meaningful and varied cross section of interested parties to Magnum Feedyard.

**Potential Members of the PAG:**

Greg Ludlow – Banker

Gary Teague – Livestock producer

John Becker – Land Planning & Development  
Andrea

Mike Harms – Morgan County Commissioner – District II  
Dave Thomas  
218 W. Kiowa, P.O. Box 596  
Fort Morgan, CO 80701  
Email: [bcc@co.morgan.co.us](mailto:bcc@co.morgan.co.us)

Mark Frazier – Banker

Greg Ertl – Logan County

Mike Mueller – Sierra Club

Jessica Davis – CSU, soil/animal science

Chris and Mary Kraft, Owners/Managers  
Badger Creek Farm, Inc.  
15960 Road 21  
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